

Introduced by Senator VasconcellosFebruary 19, 2004

An act to add Article 4 (commencing with Section 40) to Chapter 1 of Part 1 of, and to repeal Section 33080 of, the Education Code, relating to education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1418, as introduced, Vasconcellos. Articulation of educational purpose and policy.

The California Constitution requires the Legislature to provide for a system of common schools and includes within that system all kindergarten schools, elementary schools, secondary schools, community colleges, and state colleges, and the school districts and other agencies that maintain those schools and colleges.

This bill would articulate the Legislature's intent as to the purpose and public policy of that system.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Article 4 (commencing with Section 40) is
2 added to Chapter 1 of Part 1 of the Education Code, to read:

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4 Article 4. California Educational Purpose and Policy

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6 40. It is the intent of the Legislature to endeavor to recognize
7 and promote all of the following public policy statements:



1 (a) Each child is a unique person, with unique needs, and the
2 purpose of the educational system of this state is to enable each
3 child to develop all of his or her own potential. To this end, public
4 schools should be focused on pupils as lifelong learners,
5 recognizing that healthy pupils arrive at school with an intrinsic
6 motivation to learn.

7 (b) California public education should seek to promote lifelong
8 learning by placing the learner at the center of education. To this
9 end public schools should adopt learner centered education that
10 helps the learner to acquire basic skills to learn and provides a basis
11 for learning throughout life. Recognizing that the responsibility
12 for learning rests ultimately on the learner, it should be the
13 responsibility of public schools to facilitate learning through
14 education that recognizes the unique needs of the individual, and
15 that is flexible, competency-based, varied in methodology, and not
16 always constrained by time or place.

17 (c) It should be the goal of the public schools to create an
18 environment that supports the individual as a whole person,
19 attempts to meet the individual needs of a broad range of learners
20 who have different ways of learning, different skills, and different
21 cultural backgrounds. Different learning styles may be addressed
22 by a variety of means.

23 (d) California public schools should do all of the following:

24 (1) Be learner-centered, attending to the diversity among
25 pupils and using this diversity to enrich learning and enhance
26 results for all pupils.

27 (2) Recognize that the learning of complex subject matter is
28 most effective when it is an intentional process of constructing
29 meaning from information and experience.

30 (3) Recognize that successful learners are active, goal-directed,
31 self-regulating, and that successful learners assume personal
32 responsibility for contributing to their own learning.

33 (4) Assist learners to acquire the thinking and learning
34 strategies necessary for continued learning success throughout
35 their lives.

36 (5) Assist learners in creating meaningful learning goals that
37 are consistent with both personal and educational aspirations and
38 interests.

39 (6) Assist learners to link new information with existing
40 knowledge in meaningful ways.

1 (7) Assist learners to engage in strategic and critical thinking
2 and reasoning strategies to solve problems and achieve complex
3 learning goals.

4 (8) Provide a learning environment that is nurturing and that
5 motivates learners with instructional practices that are appropriate
6 for the learners' level of prior knowledge, cognitive abilities, and
7 learning and thinking strategies.

8 SEC. 2. Section 33080 of the Education Code is repealed.

9 ~~33080. Each child is a unique person, with unique needs, and~~
10 ~~the purpose of the educational system of this state is to enable each~~
11 ~~child to develop all of his or her own potential.~~

